

2 What Is Claimed Is:  
1 ~~Patent Claims~~

1. A method for coordinating network components (1, 2), at least one first logical component (1) and one second logical component (2) being provided, each of which corresponds to a specific application and which are able to communicate with each other via the network on a communications plane that is essentially independent from the applications plane, having the steps:

Setting up a communications connection between the first and the second logical components (1, 2) at the initiative of one of the first or the second logical components (1, 2), functioning in response to a specific event that concerns the first and/or second logical component (1, 2);

Transmitting an information message via the established communications connection from the second logical component (2) to the first logical component (1), the information message containing at least information with respect to the current application status of the second logical component; and

Comparing the information of the transmitted information message in the first logical component (1) with corresponding information stored there in a nonvolatile memory (4).

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the information of the transmitted information message in the first logical component (1) is stored in the nonvolatile memory (4).

3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the first logical component (1) uses information of the transmitted information message to reconstruct the state before the setup of the communications connection.

4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the information message contains information with regard to the initiative to set up the communications connections.
5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first and the second logical components (1, 2) stand in a master-slave relationship to each other.
6. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the information message, after a reset in an already started application, is transmitted to at least one of the first or the second logical components (1, 2).
7. The method as recited Claim 6, characterized in that the information message contains information concerning whether the second component (2) has carried out a hardware reset.
8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that specific information which becomes the content of the information message is stored in a nonvolatile memory (5) of the second logical component (2).
9. The method as recited in Claim 8, characterized by the step that the content of the nonvolatile memory (5) of the second logical component (2) is actualized every time a change occurs in the application status of the second logical component (2).
10. The method as recited in Claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the information message contains further information regarding the prehistory of the second component (2).
11. Carrying out the method as recited in one of the preceding claims in a hierarchically set up system of network components, of which the first logical component (1) exercises a master function for one or a plurality of second logical

components (2).

12. Carrying out the method as recited in Claim 11 in a hierarchically set up system of network components, of which the second logical component (2) exercises a master function for one or a plurality of first or second logical components (1, 2).

13. An application of the method as recited in one of the preceding claims in measuring and/or monitoring systems and/or control systems in manufacturing technology.

14. An application of the method as recited in one of the preceding claims in automotive on-board information systems.

15. An application of the method as recited in one of the preceding claims for network-wide failure location and/or failure diagnosis of network components (1, 2).

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